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Title: Problems being faced by the Coco growers in the country.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, in our country, coco is mainly produced in Southern States, especially in Kerala. In India, 80 per cent production of coco is in Kerala State, out of which, 60 per cent production is in Idukki District, which is my Constituency. The production of coco is developing in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh also. But the present production caters only to 60 per cent of our need. The growth of production is only two per cent, whereas the growth of consumption is 15 per cent. There is large demand for coco in India and also in the world market for chocolate and confectionary industry. But our farmers are not getting fair price as they get only Rs.20 per kilogram for wet beans whereas they should be getting, at least Rs.40 to Rs.50 to be remunerative. It is because cost of manure, spraying and other inputs have increased manifold but the farmers are not getting fair price for their produce. Also there is large scale imports to meet internal demand from countries like Ghana and Ivory Coast at an import duty of only 35 per cent.

So, I would request the Government to induce more farmers to go in for coco production and to cultivate coco. The Government should give liberal financial assistance and also should hike the import duty so that the farmers get a fair price and more farmers opt for the production and cultivation of coco. That will meet our internal demand and will also cater to exports from the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, what is happening is that any and every matter is being treated as urgent and notices are given. It requires very serious thinking. There is a procedure of Rule 377 which is much better. But you are raising every issue and issues concerning your constituencies. It is for raising matters of urgent public importance. Please consider this. I would appeal to all the hon. Members. For obvious reasons, today I am very liberal but in future, I would not allow this.